

PATENT
Serial No. 10/541,989
Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on June 19, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A loudspeaker including a housing ~~(2)~~ with a front side ~~(2a)~~ and a rear side ~~(2b)~~, a diaphragm ~~(8)~~ accommodated in and flexibly connected to the housing and an actuator ~~(6)~~ for displacing the diaphragm with respect to the housing along a translation axis ~~(10)~~ imaginarily extending from said one side to said other side of the housing, wherein the housing extends around the translation axis and is provided with a conical forepart ~~(22a)~~ widening towards the front side, a base part ~~(22b)~~ extending towards the rear side and an intermediate housing part ~~(22c)~~ extending between the forepart and the base part and including transition areas ~~(22c₁, 22c₂)~~ connected to the forepart and the base part, which transition areas behave as hinges under the influence of an axial load above a certain value, whereby

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wherein the intermediate housing portion turns towards the translation axis and the forepart turns towards the rear side under the influence of such a load.

2. (Currently amended) A The loudspeaker as claimed in claim 1, wherein the intermediate housing part has a substantially cylindrical shape.

3. (Currently amended) A The loudspeaker as claimed in claim 1, wherein the material of the intermediate housing part is different from the material of the forepart and/or the base part.

4. (Currently amended) A The loudspeaker as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transition areas are weaker than the other portions of the housing.

5. (Currently amended) A The loudspeaker as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forepart of the housing has an angle of inclination, related to a line parallel to the translation axis, which is at least 30 degrees.

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6. (Currently amended) A The loudspeaker as claimed in claim 1, wherein the intermediate housing part has a length dimension, viewed along a line parallel to the translation axis, which is at least 3 mm.

7. (Currently amended) A The loudspeaker as claimed in claim 1, wherein the intermediate housing part has a thickness dimension, viewed in a direction perpendicular to the translation axis, which is minimally 0.5 mm.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

9. (New) A loudspeaker comprising:

a housing having a forepart widening towards a front side, a base part extending towards a rear side, and an intermediate part between the forepart and the base part, the intermediate part being connected to the forepart and the base part by transition areas;

a diaphragm flexibly connected to the housing; and

an actuator for displacing the diaphragm with respect to the

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housing;

wherein the transition areas behave as hinges under a load so that the intermediate part turns towards a central axis of the loudspeaker extending between the forepart and the base part.

10.(New) The loudspeaker of claim 9, wherein the forepart turns towards the base part under the load.

11.(New) The loudspeaker of claim 9, wherein the intermediate part has a substantially cylindrical shape.

12.(New) The loudspeaker of claim 9, wherein the intermediate part is made of different material than the forepart and/or the base part.

13.(New) The loudspeaker of claim 9, wherein the transition areas are weaker than other portions of the housing.

14.(New) The loudspeaker of claim 9, wherein the forepart has an angle of inclination, related to a line parallel to the central

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axis, which is at least 30 degrees.

15. (New) The loudspeaker of claim 9, wherein the intermediate housing part has a length dimension, viewed along a line parallel to the central axis, which is at least 3 mm.

16. (New) The loudspeaker of claim 9, wherein the intermediate part has a thickness dimension, viewed in a direction perpendicular to the central axis, which is minimally 0.5 mm.

17. (New) A housing comprising:
a forepart widening towards a front side;
a base part extending towards a rear side; and
an intermediate part between the forepart and the base part,
the intermediate part being connected to the forepart and the base part by transition areas;

wherein the transition areas behave as hinges under a load so that the intermediate part turns towards a central axis of the loudspeaker extending between the forepart and the base part.

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18. (New) The housing of claim 17, wherein the forepart turns towards the base part under the load.

19. (New) The housing of claim 17, wherein the intermediate part is made of different material than the forepart and/or the base part.

20. (New) The housing of claim 17, wherein the forepart has an angle of inclination, related to a line parallel to the central axis, which is at least 30 degrees.

21. (New) The housing of claim 17, wherein the intermediate housing part has a length dimension, viewed along a line parallel to the central axis, which is at least 3 mm.